



Renewing Our Church Together

MARCH 2023



AN UPDATE ON OUR CAMPAIGN

Goal: \$500,000,000

Raised to Date: \$474,813,137

Percent of Goal: 95%

Number of Gifts: 50,932

Thank you for your generous support!

***Called to Renew* helps parish tackle both critical and dream projects**

Sacred Heart Parish in Ventura knew its church roof needed to be replaced but, until *Called to Renew*, was unsure how to finance such an expensive project.

"This church was built in the '60s and the roof's lifespan was 50 years, so that expired in 2016," said Father Al Ezeonyeka, pastor. "Over time, because we didn't really have the money, it was deferred."

The parish also had a laundry list of other items to address — some critical — like replacing the HVAC system, repairing walkways and steps, sealing the parking lots, and replacing tile, carpeting, and windows. Although Sacred Heart participated in an early phase of *Called to Renew* and raised nearly \$1.8 million on its \$1.4 million goal, doing everything was not feasible even with the parish's share of fulfilled pledges.

Prior to launching *Called to Renew*, the Archdiocese of Los Angeles commissioned a thorough assessment of parishes, missions, centers, and schools. It found \$350 million in maintenance and upkeep projects that had been deferred to prioritize more urgent needs. Realizing that some of these projects would still be beyond some parishes' financial resources, the Archdiocese created a general investment fund with campaign gifts.

Because of the general investment fund, Sacred Heart was able to check multiple projects off its to-do list and then direct campaign gifts to the roof, which is now complete.

"Thank God for *Called to Renew*," said Father Ezeonyeka.

The parish will direct the remainder of its funds to a long-planned project — a hospitality center and "friendship corner" with modern and accessible restrooms. The original concept for this project was developed when the church was built, but it was quickly outgrown.

Sacred Heart will need to raise additional funds to complete this dream project but "people are really committed to it," Father Ezeonyeka said.

Visit calledtorenew.org to learn more.